

Chart Share: Steffi Graf's Pro Tennis Career

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Chart Description

Type of Chart

- Full size Standard Celeration Chart
- Data: Yearly per year frequencies
 - Professional tennis tour singles matches played by Steffi Graf per year with dots as "wins per year" and Xs as "losses per year"

Celerations Four Trend-following celerations show:

| Celeration values per 5 years | Years |
|--|-----------|
| dots (wins): x6 acceleration Xs (losses): /6 deceleration | 1982-1989 |
| dots (wins): /2 deceleration Xs (losses): > /2 deceleration | 1990-1999 |

Bounce Bounce within each celeration course:

| Bounce values | Years |
|--|-----------|
| dots (wins): < x2 Xs (losses): x3 | 1982-1989 |
| dots (wins): < x2 Xs (losses): > x2 | 1990-1999 |

Jump Turn Combos Change effects shown by Jump Turn Combinations:

| Celerations and Combos | Jump Turn values |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| dots(wins): No Jump Turn Down | Jump x1 Turn /12 |
| Xs (losses): Jump Up Turn Up | Jump x8 Turn x3 |

Outliers Unusual frequency instances beyond the celeration courses:

| Outliers | Reason | Years |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Xs (losses): 1 peach (1 loss in 1982) | 1 match played as 13-yr-old | 1982-1989 |
| dots (wins): 1 lemon (16 wins in 1997) Xs (losses): 2 lemons (9 losses in '98 & '99) | Injuries Injuries | 1990-1999 |

Learning Pictures Dots and Xs together form the following two-line Learning Pictures:

- "Jaws" from 1982-1989
- "Downhill" from 1990-1999

Steffi Graf's Pro Tennis Career

Background Sometime in the early '80s I read about a German teenage tennis player whose name was the same as mine—just a gender variation. When my wife gave birth to our third daughter in 1986, she voiced no objection to naming her "Steffi." The fantasy? That when the original Steffi was ready to retire, I would have fluency trained another Steffi to take her place. The reality? When Steffi Graf announced her retirement at age 30 in 1999, the younger Steffi, now 13, was indeed on her way to becoming a fine athlete, but in the team sports of softball, basketball and volleyball rather than tennis.

Comment Steffi Graf played her first professional tournament in 1982 at 13. Over the next six years, her wins accelerated and her losses decelerated in a "Jaws" Learning Picture. In the last three of those years she won 233 matches while losing only seven. From that point, we see a No Jump /12 Turn Down in wins as the win celeration changes from x6 to /2 while the loss celeration undergoes a x8 Jump Up with a x3 Turn Up. The last 11 years produced a "Downhill" Learning Picture with the wins decelerating by /2 every five years, but she also decelerated her losses by /2 every five years. After injuries produced a lemony year for wins in 1997, she suffered back to back outlier years in losses in 1998 and 1999. Steffi ended her professional tennis career with 902 wins and 115 losses, a winning ratio of 8 to 1.

